



Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization

P.O. Box 383, Dover, Delaware 19903

(302) 387-6030 FAX: (302) 387-6032

<http://doverkentmpo.org>

DOVER/KENT MPO COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2014

Dover/Kent MPO Council Members and /or Representatives thereof attending:

Carleton E. Carey, Sr., Mayor, City of Dover, Chairman

Don Tinari, Mayor, Town of Cheswold, for Kent County Municipalities

Brad Eaby, for Brooks Banta, President, Kent County Levy Court

Cathy Smith for Delaware Transit Corporation

Terry Pepper, Dep. Dir., Safety & Homeland Security, for Governor Jack Markell, State of Delaware

Drew Boyce, for Shailen Bhatt, Secretary, Delaware Dept. of Transportation

Members not attending:

Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Regional Administrator, Region III, Federal Transit Admin. (FTA)

Marc Dixon for Mary Ridgeway, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Admin. (FHWA)

Non-members attending:

Rich Vetter, MPO

James Galvin, MPO Staff

Chris Kirby, MPO Staff

Kate Layton, MPO Staff

Catherine Samardza, MPO Staff

1. Introduction of Members & Guests
2. Public Comments
3. ***ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda***

MOTION By Mr. Pepper to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Boyce. Motion carried.

4. ***ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes / November 6, 2013***

MOTION By Mr. Pepper to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ms. Smith. Motion carried.

5. ***ACTION ITEM: Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendments – J. Galvin***
5.1 – TAC and PAC comments

Mr. Galvin reviewed the materials sent to the Council members. He noted that the projects being proposed must be incorporated into the MTP in order for DelDOT to include them in the Capital Transportation Program (CTP).

Two large projects in the MTP are being broken down into smaller components: Route 8 and North Dover/Route 13. Other projects are the Camden Bypass, at the request of the Town of Camden, and widening of Route 13 from Puncheon Run to Woodside, at the request of DelDOT.

Mr. Galvin reported that he went through the scoring process with these projects, then presented his suggestions to the Prioritization Working Group, which concurred with the scores. He noted that some projects have dropped lower on the funding list, some moving entirely to the “aspirations” list. The projects were presented to the TAC, PAC and Council for review and recommendations.

The PAC voted to recommend Council approve the project list and amend the MTP. The TAC had concerns regarding the widening of US13, and wanted to learn more about the project before recommending approval. The TAC did recommend approval of the remainder of the projects on the amended list.

There was discussion concerning the US13 project. Mr. Boyce reported that this project came from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and asked how the MPO addressed HSIP projects; Mr. Vetter noted that there



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is a line in the priority process scoring for safety.

There was additional discussion of the project, where it fell on the list of priorities and how it compared with other projects. There was also discussion concerning the priority processes used by the MPO and DelDOT.

Mr. Galvin suggested three options for Council:

- 1) Approve/adopt the project list and scoring as presented
- 2) Approve/adopt the project list without the US13 project
- 3) Re-score the project list and then adopt the amendments.

Mr. Vetter suggested option #2. Consensus was that there was time before the CTP had to be adopted to amend the MTP again if necessary.

MOTION By Mr. Eaby to remove the US13 widening project from the MTP amendments pending a presentation on the project by DelDOT, and to adopt the remaining projects on the list into the MTP. Seconded by Mr. Pepper. Motion carried.

Mr. Vetter said he would contact DelDOT for a March presentation for Council.

6. Discussion Item: Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Updates (current and proposed) – R. Vetter

Mr. Vetter reviewed the status of projects that have been discussed at prior meetings. He noted that the Route 10 project is in final design and scheduled for summer construction. He also reported that the trail over the bridge on Route 10 will utilize the shoulder and a “Jersey barrier” for safety.

7. Discussion Item: Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) – R. Vetter (enclosure)

Mr. Vetter reported that he is on the committee for this new federal program. Available funding will be \$30,000 each year for two years, with a 20% match required. It is specifically for transportation projects adjacent to federal lands and national monuments. Route 9, Bombay Hook, The Green and Dover Air Force base are all areas that qualify for this funding.

8. MUNICIPALITIES/KENT COUNTY REPORTS: Mayor Carey, Mayor Tinari, Comm. Eaby

Mayor Tinari reported that there is no new construction happening in Cheswold. Saratoga development sold property that was approved for 900 lots. The new owner wants to convert the property to farmland, but Cheswold has no agricultural zoning within town limits. There are some commercial businesses coming into the town (Culligan Water and a building supply store). Mr. Pepper asked if the town was going to annex in the WalMart store; Mayor Tinari reported that they would have to annex in the adjacent property as well. Town charter allows for seven (7) years of tax incentives, but the owners of the property want at least 10 years. This issue is holding Cheswold back from annexing in WalMart, which would provide a good tax base. He also reported that the Cheswold Fire Company has asked State legislature for a waiver to the Affordable Care Act, which determines volunteers to be employees; if they don't get a waiver, the company may have to limit members.

Mayor Carey reported that an art gallery has opened in the old “Golden Fleece” building on The Green. Dover is asking the legislature for a change in the FOIA rules, so that negotiations for property sales or lease can be private. The Delaware League of Local Governments supports this change. He also reported that Dover has annexed 2 small properties in the area of 508 Acorn Lane. Council approved an ad hoc committee to look at the future of City Hall and the former library, on how best to use the facilities.

Commissioner Eaby reported that the gymnasium planned on the other side of Brecknock Park is moving ahead.



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The County is working with Edis as the construction manager. Details of the facility are still being discussed. The County has approved storm water districts to allow Home Owners Associations (HOAs) to work with the County for management. The program is voluntary for existing developments, mandatory for new development. Fees will depend on a “menu” of services. There will also be a commercial component to the program.

9. TAC Report – R. Vetter

10.PAC Report – K. Layton

Ms. Layton reported that the PAC also asked for a presentation on the proposed US13 widening project. Mr. Vetter noted that PAC members were helpful in notifying staff of traffic signals where the intervals are not working well; staff forwards this information to DelDOT. Ms. Layton also reported that public comments were received on the proposed amendments to the MTP; comments on the US13 widening project were mixed. The bike summit, now inclusive of pedestrian issues and called “Heels and Wheels,” will take place in March at the University of Delaware’s Clayton Hall.

11.Staff Report –

11.1 Outreach Activities – K. Layton

11.2 UPWP Progress & Financial Reports – R. Vetter (enclosure)

11.3 Other MPO Projects & Updates – R.Vetter

Next Meeting: March 5, 2014

MOTION By Commissioner Eaby to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Smith. Motion carried.